



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,608	09/21/2006	Luc Hasenfratz	7675P002	9183

7590 02/19/2008
Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025

EXAMINER

BIDWELL, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3651

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

02/19/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/568,608

Applicant(s)

HASENFRATZ ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Bidwell

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/4/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-17, 19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Didriksen et al. (U. S. Patent 6,728,597).

Didriksen et al. show an apparatus 2 for storing and dispensing items 13 having a plurality of storage regions 4, a dispensing station 1, and the storage regions circulate around a continuous path such that each storage region 4 is brought into alignment with dispensing station 1.

Re claim 2, the storage regions are physically delimited.

Re claim 3, shown is at least one shelf 6.

Re claim 4, the shelves are reconfigurable.

Re claim 5, the dispensing station has means for removing items 13 from the storage regions.

Re claim 7, the items are pulled out.

Re claim 10, a plurality of items may be removed from each storage region when it is aligned with the dispensing station 1.

Re claim 11, shelf 10 can be considered a chute across which the items are slid.

Re claim 12, the regions 4 circulate when required.

Re claim 13, the regions are halted where desired.

Re claim 14, items are loaded as well into regions 4 for storage.

Re claim 15, items may be manually placed into regions 4.

Re claim 16, there may be more than one dispensing station if desired.

Re claim 17, the items are circulated and periodically brought into alignment with the dispensing station.

Re claim 19, the items are pulled out.

Re claim 21, a plurality of items may be removed.

Re claim 22, the regions are caused to circulate only when required.

Re claim 23, the regions are circulated until a desired storage region is aligned with a correct position.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Didriksen et al. in view of Coles et al. (U.S. Patent 5,363,258).

Didriksen et al. do not disclose pushing items. However, shown by Coles et al. is a pusher 40 for moving items 60. To use a pusher as taught by Coles et al. instead of a puller would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as an engineering expediency which would result in the predictable removal of the items.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Didriksen et al. in view of Bossler et al. (U.S. Patent 4,470,741).

Didriksen et al. do not disclose a hook to pull the items. However, shown by Bossler et al. is such a hook 50. To use this hook would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as an obvious engineering expediency which would yield the predictable result of removing the items.

Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Didriksen et al. in view of Pohjonen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,380,139).

Didriksen et al. do not disclose the use of suction to remove items. However, shown by Pohjonen et al. is the use of a suction device 35 to remove items from shelves. To use such a device on Didriksen et al. would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art an engineering expediency which would yield the predictable result of removing items from shelves.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Bidwell whose telephone number is (571)272-6910.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford, can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 3651

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/James R Bidwell/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3651

02/13/2008